

## Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 003455 TOSEC 130181

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER  
O'KENNEDY

FOR SECRETARY'S INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH SUBJECT  
MEETING, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S AUGUST  
30, 1977 STATEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND.

BEGIN TEXT: "THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, AMERICANS HAVE  
RIGHTLY RECALLED THE CONTRIBUTIONS MEN AND WOMEN FROM MANY  
COUNTRIES HAVE MADE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.  
AMONG THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN THOSE OF THE  
BRITISH AND IRISH PEOPLE, PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC ALIKE.  
WE HAVE CLOSE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH BOTH PARTS OF IRE-  
LAND, WITH WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

IT IS NATURAL THAT AMERICANS ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE  
CONTINUING CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. WE  
KNOW THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE THERE REJECT  
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THE BOMB AND THE BULLET. THE UNITED STATES WHOLEHEARTEDLY  
SUPPORTS PEACEFUL MEANS FOR FINDING A JUST SOLUTION THAT  
INVOLVES BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY OF NORTHERN IRELAND,  
PROTECTS HUMAN RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMIN-  
ATION -- A SOLUTION THAT THE PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AS

WELL AS THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND CAN

SUPPORT. VIOLENCE CANNOT RESOLVE NORTHERN IRELAND'S PROBLEMS; IT ONLY INCREASES THEM, AND SOLVES NOTHING.

WE HOPE THAT ALL THOSE ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE WILL RENOUNCE THIS COURSE AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PEACEFUL PURSUIT OF LEGITIMATE GOALS. THE PATH OF RECONCILIATION, COOPERATION AND PEACE IS THE ONLY COURSE THAT CAN END THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND LEAD TO A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. I ASK ALL AMERICANS TO REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING, WITH FINANCIAL OR OTHER AID, ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE INVOLVEMENT, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, IN THIS VIOLENCE DELAYS THE DAY WHEN THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND CAN LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER IN HARMONY, FREE FROM FEAR. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WILL CONTINUE TO APPREHEND AND PROSECUTE ANY WHO VIOLATE U.S. LAWS IN THIS REGARD.

U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND ISSUE HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF IMPARTIALITY, AND THAT IS HOW IT WILL REMAIN. WE SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH WILL COMMAND WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE THROUGHOUT BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF TELLING THE PARTIES HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED. THE ONLY PERMANENT SOLUTION WILL COME FROM THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE. THERE ARE NO SOLUTIONS THAT OUTSIDERS CAN IMPOSE.

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AT THE SAME TIME, THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND SHOULD KNOW THAT THEY HAVE OUR COMPLETE SUPPORT IN THEIR QUEST FOR A PEACEFUL AND JUST SOCIETY. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO NORTHERN IRELAND'S HARDWORKING PEOPLE THAT THE AREA HAS CONTINUED TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT, DESPITE THE VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY A SMALL MINORITY. THIS IS TO BE WELCOMED, SINCE INVESTMENT AND OTHER PROGRAMS TO CREATE JOBS WILL ASSIST IN ENSURING A HEALTHY ECONOMY AND COMBATTING UNEMPLOYMENT.

IT IS STILL TRUE THAT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WOULD CONTRIBUTE IMMEASURABLY TO STABILITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND SO ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT. IN THE EVENT OF SUCH A SETTLEMENT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO JOIN WITH OTHERS TO SEE HOW ADDITIONAL JOB-CREATING INVESTMENT COULD BE ENCOURAGED, TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

I ADMIRE THE MANY TRUE FRIENDS OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN THIS COUNTRY WHO SPEAK OUT FOR PEACE. EMOTIONS RUN HIGH ON THIS SUBJECT AND THE EASIEST COURSE IS NOT TO STAND UP FOR

CONCILIATION. I PLACE MYSELF FIRMLY ON THE SIDE OF THOSE

WHO SEEK PEACE AND REJECT VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND."  
END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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